Just like you can be allergic to foods, you can also be allergic to medications.

You may be allergic if:

- You develop a rash or hives
- Your skin or eyes become itchy
- You have trouble breathing
- Parts of your body begin to swell

An allergic reaction usually happens within an hour after taking a drug, but sometimes it can appear several hours later!

The chances of an allergic reaction are higher when a medication is taken frequently, rubbed into the skin, or injected.

The most common drugs known to cause allergic reactions are:

- Antibiotics
- Aspirin and other pain relievers
- Anticonvulsants
- Monoclonal antibody therapy
- Chemotherapy
- Insulin

If you think you are allergic to a medication, call your doctor right away. If symptoms are severe, seek immediate help!

If you are allergic to a drug, your doctor may prescribe an alternative, OR you may be gradually eased into taking the drug, starting with very small amounts.

For serious allergic reactions, you may be given a medication like an antihistamine.

Be sure to tell your doctor and pharmacist about ALL allergies you have!
Medications Known to Cause Allergic Reactions

Acetazolamide
Amoxicillin
Amoxicillin-clavulanate
Ampicillin
Ampicillin-sulbactam
Aspirin
Benzocaine
Bumetanide
Carbamazepine
Carboplatin
Cefazolin
Cefdinir
Cefpodoxime
Cefprozil
Cefuroxime
Cephalexin
Cisplatin
Codeine
Dapsone
Diclofenac
Dicloxacillin
Diflunisal
Erythropoietin
Ethacrynic Acid
Etodolac
Fenoprofen
Furosemide
Glimepiride
Glipizide
Glyburide
Human growth hormone
Hydrochlorothiazide
Ibuprofen
Imipenem
Indomethacin
Infliximab
Insulin
Interferon-B
Iodine
Ketoprofen
Ketorolac
Lamotrigine
Lidocaine
Meloxicam
Meropenem
Nabumetone
Nafcilin
Naproxen
Natalizumab
Omalizumab
Oxacillin
Oxaliplatin
Oxaprazin
Oxcarbazepine
Paclitaxel
Penicillin VK
Penicillin G
Phenobarbital
Phenytoin
Piperacillin-tazobactam
Piroxicam
Procaine
Rituximab
Salsalate
Silver Sulfadiazine
Sulfacetamide
Sulfanilamide
Sulfasalazine
Sulfisoxazole
Sulindac
Tetracycline
Tolmetin
Torsemide
Trimethoprim—sulfamethoxazole
Valproic acid
Zonisamide

This is a list of drugs which commonly cause allergic reactions. You could be allergic to a medication that is NOT on this list!